



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 26.3 Thursday, January 16, 2020

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE



*Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman*

On Monday, Sumpter Township Supervisor John Morgan cut the ribbon on the newly opened branch of the Belleville Area District Library, located across the road from the Sumpter Township Hall. The branch is a media center with computers and printers and other technology for the public to use. No books, but books from the main library can be put on hold and picked up at the media center. The branch is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday and from 3 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

## VBT planners put off decision on senior assisted living proposal

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
 Independent Editor

After more than an hour and 20 minutes of hearing mostly negative comments during a Jan. 8 public hearing on a proposed assisted living project, the Van Buren Township Planning Commission voted to postpone additional discussion until more information could be gathered.

Because the township board meeting room was still under renovations, those coming to the public hearing were packed into the Otisville-Sheldon room. The meeting was not recorded for cable or YouTube viewing and there were no microphones provided to the board or audience, so there was difficulty in hearing the comments.

At issue is special land use for the 64,000-square-foot Hampton Manor

development, in two sections, proposed for the southeast corner of Tyler and Morton Taylor roads. It is planned to have 80 units: 24 in memory care and 36 in assisted living.

The six parcels totaling 7.11 acres are presently owned by Walter and Evelyn Joyce Rochowiak, who live across Tyler Road from the site. The Rochowiaks had the property rezoned C (Local Business) District in 1999 when they said they were going to have to move their Garden Fantasy greenhouses and florist shop to the site because their landlord would be moving them out.

The Tyler/Morton Taylor site had been previously owned by Bentley Nurseries who had one acre of it already zoned C. The Bentleys also rezoned the rest of the

property from Agriculture to residential, with plans to break it into lots to build houses in the future.

But, in 1993 the Rochowiaks purchased the property and in 1998 asked to have all the property rezoned C. The Rochowiaks didn't leave the Haggerty Road site until a few years ago and at that time they moved their business to their farm and the site under discussion remained vacant.

Walden Woods at the northwest corner of Tyler and Morton Taylor was built with a strip of commercial zoning along Tyler Road, but that zoning would expire when the PUD agreement ran out. The Rochowiak site zoned C now is completely surrounded by residential properties.

Charter Club Estates subdivision residents, across Morton Taylor road from the site, fought the rezoning in 1998 and 1999 and many of the same Charter Club residents are opposing this development now.

The proposed developer is listed in township documents as Van Buren Investors

Land Holdings LLC, which opponents have pointed out is not registered with the state.

In his information to the township, developer Zohaib Syed listed his address as 1451 S. Gratiot, Clinton Township, which is the site of an auto repair shop.

But Sam Martin, vice president of development of Hampton Manor, said their Hampton Manors are in operation and ready for inspections in Shelby Township, Brighton, Dundee, and one under construction on Ridge Road in Canton Township.

He said they would like the local seniors to be able to stay in VBT.

"My partner and I got into this years ago," Martin said. "We want to make sure they're happy. We have free valet services to go get the car for seniors when weather is bad."

He said traffic will be minimal since usually only 1% of the seniors are driving. The shifts for the 15 employees will be 7

*(continued on page 3)*

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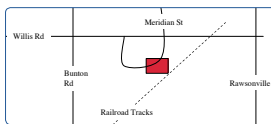

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# SECOND FRONT PAGE



*Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztzman*

Members of the audience at the public hearing on plans for an assisted living project listen to the proposal on Jan. 8. The Van Buren Township Planning Commission voted to get more information before approving the project.

## VBT Plan

*(continued from page 1)*

a.m. to 3 p.m., 3 to 11 p.m., and 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Martin said the development will offer beauty salons, spas, movie theatres, courtyards, grilles, sunrooms, libraries, and outside doors for each assisted living unit.

Thirteen people stood up to speak in the audience, with most against the project and a few just asking questions.

Attorney Tom DiPietro, who has lived on Morton Taylor Road for many years, said years ago he was concerned about the apartments when they were planned and they were built and he got used to it. Then he was concerned about the new subdivisions, and he got a whole lot of new neighbors.

"It's hard to place our parents," DiPietro said. "This is a nice one ... a low-level use with minimal impact."

Attorney Lisa Martin, who lives across Morton Taylor Road in Charter Club subdivision, spoke against the siting of the assisted living project.

She said the ordinance reads that projects must be compatible with the surrounding neighbors and this isn't, because it's in a residential neighborhood.

Also, Martin said Tyler Road is a main school bus route and the shift change at 3 p.m. is the time buses are running on Tyler.

"I hear tire screeches all the time," Martin said of the Morton Taylor/Tyler intersection that is a four-way stop.

She noted that six other subdivisions

are close and the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) reports daily traffic of 4,300 to 4,400 cars within a quarter mile of that intersection.

Martin said the zoning ordinance limits construction at that site to 30,000 square feet and this 62,000-64,000-square-foot development is too big.

She also questioned whether they will be able to smoke on campus and whether they will be throwing their cigarette butts into her neighborhood.

The threat has been that something worse will come if we don't build this, she said. She urged the planners to reject this plan. She said more traffic is not what they need, not at that corner.

As she completed her remarks, the room erupted in applause.

Karianne Butler of Charter Club asked about the monthly rent of the units and why Van Buren Investors Land Holdings LLC is not registered with the state.

She asked about sidewalks and was told they would be along Tyler and Morton Taylor roads. She also asked about how they could only claim one vendor truck would deliver each week, if they had arrangements for ambulances, if they provide a smoking area, if there would be tax abatements, and how far this will be from Tyler Elementary School.

A resident at 10890 Morton Taylor said her yard is like a lake when it rains. She said after Camping World spread out the gravel, it pushed more water into her yard. She wanted to know if the assisted living development would make it worse.

Another Morton Taylor Road resident said drivers treat the four-way stop at Morton

Taylor and Tyler more like a suggestion and there would be problems for drivers from out of town going to Hampton Manor.

Dan Power, the township's new director of planning, stood to say there is a nationwide movement to make a place for seniors to age in place. He said communities have to zone appropriately and the sites should be considered more as special land use.

Planning consultant Vidya Krishnan of McKenna said the buildings total 62,516 square feet, are 17 feet tall, single story. The property has been zoned C at least for a decade, she said. The applicant is seeking special land use.

When a woman asked about the 30,000-square-foot limit in the ordinance, Krishnan said they didn't want big box stores but senior housing is residential use in C zoning and that's different.

She said the special land use approval is there to give the township control over the development and the applicant is not seeking exceptions.

Krishnan said the questions about flooding will be turned over to the engineers. She said Tyler and Morton Taylor are designated by the county as major thoroughfares. The group daycare homes along Tyler are run by the state. The questions about the safety of children crossing at Tyler School, the township will take up with the county.

She said the ordinance requires 36 parking spaces for this development and 50 are being provided.

Paul Kammer, an engineer with Fishbeck, said the developer has to contain the water on the site and the applicant has begun talking with the county on storm water management.

Planning Commission chairwoman Carol Thompson asked Director Matthew Best what items he had on his list to check on.

Director Best said: tax abatement is one item and he doesn't think there will be a request for a tax abatement. Also, on his list is ambulance data from VBT and HVA. And, addresses of current locations of other Hampton Manors. He said they have no affiliations with any other homes in the community. Also, the lighting at the site will be downward facing and will not spread into adjoining lots.

Best also said a serious construction bond is required for completion, so the township can complete the project if they walk away. Also, the planning commission would have to vote to allow the extra parking. And, the township has a priority on trash and cigarette butts.

Developer Martin said, "We try at making everything very homelike. Employees will take cigarette breaks in their cars and dispose of the cigarettes there. On the way back to the building they'll pick up pieces of trash and pull a weed."

He said the air conditioners will make minimal sound and the generator is tested once a week. He said the cost is private pay and they are looking at Medicaid. They take long-term insurance and veterans' insurance. He also said the emergency vehicles do not turn on the sirens on the way to the facility so there will be no noise from that.

A retired fireman in the back of the room called out to say that was not true. He said the sirens are turned on and Martin said they are not. The retired fireman said

*(continued on page 17)*

# OPINIONS

## Editorial

### Clerk Hurst assures that all Sumpter votes are counted

In a statement issued Tuesday, Sumpter Township Clerk Esther Hurst assured voters that all votes in the township are counted.

In full, the statement said: "To address recent public opinion, I want to assure the registered voters of Sumpter Township that your votes, regardless of how cast, are very important to us, Wayne County, and the State of Michigan. The process is one of check and balance that is routinely audited to assure accuracy for EVERY election. Specific to the Absent Voters, this is a very integral process. There is a layered procedure of accounting for absentee ballots prior to leaving the Clerk's Office for handling. The # of ballots received has to match the # of ballots tabulated. Therefore, being off by even 1 ballot will cause the Absentee Counting Board to remain sequestered until the issue has been resolved. Once again, this being a highly visible and audited function of our election process. Any opinion or allegation to the contrary is misleading, unfounded and, simply not true. Please know ... EVERY ballot is counted."

A recent letter to the editor published in the *Independent* alleged that some absentee ballots in Sumpter were thrown away in a recent election. Clerks are responsible for elections and Clerk Hurst asserts her elections are clean. Voters will be scrutinizing the 2020 elections everywhere — and, especially in Sumpter.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

We want to thank everyone who came to our celebration marking the completion of 25 years of service to the community and the beginning of our 26th year. We had a great time renewing friendships and watching others run into friends they hadn't seen in years. There were a lot of old stories related and lots of new information shared. I even had to go into the back office with those who had confidential stories to tell. What fun.

And, thanks for all the gifts — some from unknown sources. Thank you for the flowers, the fuzzy blankets, the plant, and all the cards. Time to stop celebrating and get busy on this week's paper.

\*\*\*

When I was congratulating 34<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley on his new position of Chief Judge at the court, he wished everyone Happy New Year, noting that this is not only a new year, but the beginning of a new decade.

\*\*\*

Jim was cleaning out the corners of our offices upstairs and found a copy of an old advertisement for the 2005 Strawberry Festival. It had a long list of all the free vocal and instrumental talent and other presentations over the week end at the main stage on Third Street and the stage on Fourth Street. On Sunday they had ecumenical worship followed by Christian/Gospel music. They had three Animal Magic shows and talent reviews and Choi Kwan Do demonstrations, and much, much more.

All that free entertainment for the public is what is missing at the most recent festivals, that pretty much contain just the carnival, crafters on Main, and business booths on Main. The parade on Saturday and the car



show on Sunday are the big attractions.

People in the community have been talking about the old days when the Strawberry Festival actually had some strawberries downtown along with lots of enjoyable free entertainment.

\*\*\*

Before the LDFA meeting started in Van Buren Township on Tuesday afternoon, I asked Director Matt Best about the status of the commercial strip along the north side of Tyler Road at Walden Woods, right at Morton Taylor

It would be kiddy-corner across the intersection from the Rochowiak property where a proposed assisted living development is being considered. That property is zoned commercial.

My question had to do with the PUD (planned unit development) for Walden Woods that planned a strip mall or other commercial buildings on that corner, with some apartments behind them.

Matt went to the township planning office and pulled out the PUD agreement. It says that after 150 houses are built in Walden Woods they can begin the commercial development. The commercial strip and apartments were never constructed.

Matt said he doesn't know how many homes there are in Walden Woods. But, the commercial zoning on the northwest corner is on the Master Plan and so if the zoning did revert to residential, they could easily have it rezoned to commercial, since that's what

is on the Master Plan.

All this was because I wanted to know if the Rochowiak property is spot zoned or if the property across the intersection is still commercial, too.

At the Jan. 8 public hearing, McKenna consultant Vidya Krishnan commented that the Rochowiak property is surrounded by residential zonings.

\*\*\*

Last week end was interesting weather-wise. First, on Friday morning the lights went out in our neighborhood twice and then were back on by 7 a.m. or so. Then, it rained like the devil on Saturday and the lights went out again for an hour.

That was a strange outage. I looked on the DTE power outage map and there was a huge area that was out around Belleville and Sumpter and Van Buren — and then, after an hour, it all was fixed at once.

My son, Jim, said he had noticed DTE working at the power station next to French Landing Dam over the past few weeks. He said it was as if somebody said, "Hey, that switch shouldn't be off and turned it on and then all our lights came on." That's just joking and we have no idea what really happened.

Sunday, of course, was icy and Monday was in the 40s.



www.bellevilleareaindependent.com  
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## Letters

### VBALL to organize Challenger Division

To the editor:

Happy New Year! All of us at the Van Buren Area Little League hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

Now that the stress of the holidays are behind us, it's that time of the year when most of us start thinking about spring and with the arrival of spring brings Little League baseball and softball, so we would like to remind the community that registration for the 2020 spring season is in full gear with registration now open online until Feb. 29 at [vanburenarealittleleague.org](http://vanburenarealittleleague.org).

The Van Buren Area Little League is currently working on developing the Challenger Division for the 2020 spring season. The Challenger Division is a division that would allow children with mental and physical disabilities the chance to play the greatest game in the world. Full details are currently in the very early stages and we are hoping for a lot of feedback from the community on how to make the Challenger Division the best division in Little League sports. Any comments or suggestion can be emailed to [www.vanburenarealittleleague@yahoo.com](mailto:www.vanburenarealittleleague@yahoo.com) or sent to the Little League Facebook and, please, if anyone knows of a family or families that would be interested in being a part of the Challenger league please let Van Buren Area Little League know.

Marc Littleton, president  
Van Buren Area Little League

### Thanks to Krzyske Bro. Gas Co. in Waltz

To the editor:

Thanks goes to the Krzyske Bro. Gas Co. in Waltz for coming to my aid when called. They can't be beat. I've known them for over 50 years. Thanks, with all my heart.

The Burke Family  
Sumpter Township

### Thank you, St. Jude

To the editor:

Please print this. Thank you.  
St. Jude's Novena

May the sacred heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless, pray for us.

Dear St. Jude,

Thank you for answering my prayers. I'm still in need of your help, but so thankful for what you've done for me.

Say this prayer nine times a day and by the eighth day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.

Sincerely and with love,  
G.R. Belleville

### Council invites public to Meet & Greet city manager candidates

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

A special Meet and Greet session with candidates for the position of Belleville City Manager will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 3, at the Moving the Mitten office at 337 Main Street.

After that session, the city council will hold its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

The plan is to hold a special council meeting on Feb. 4 to make the final selection.

The council selected four unnamed candidates at a recent meeting and sent out questionnaires for them to fill out. The council plans to interview candidates beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25, in the council chambers. The public is welcome to attend all meetings.

The location of the Meet and Greet was announced at Monday's regular meeting of the city council.

In other business at the one-hour-and-10-minute meeting, the council:

- Approved the request of the Belleville Area Council for the Arts to use High Street between the Veterans Memorial and Church Street to host Music Lakeside at Horizon Park on Thursdays from 4 to 10 p.m. from June 25 through Aug. 20; and

- Approved accounts payable of \$71,573.76 and the following purchases in excess of \$500: to Blue Ribbon contracting, \$7,976.25 for emergency repair to a sewer that broke under the road at 140 Madelon St. on Sept. 24 and 25; to Hennessey Engineers, \$2,807 for watershed/storm; to State of Michigan, \$2,000 for radio activation for eight radios for the fire department; to MISS DIG, \$1,569.83 for membership fees; and to Washtenaw Area Mutual Aid Association, \$1,000 for annual dues for the fire department.



Jan. 17 – Leon Wright  
Jan. 21 – Kathy Kovach  
Jan. 22 – Scott Russell  
Jan. 23 – Andrea Vandenberg

*Do you have a birthday soon? Does someone you know have a birthday? Call the Independent at (734) 699-9020 with your information and we will publish it as soon as possible.*



## Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Discounted tickets are available for this summer's Thunder Over Michigan Air Show at Willow Run Airport featuring the U.S. Navy Blue Angels on Aug. 29-30. Advance 1-day admission tickets are \$35 per person with kids 15 and under free, through June 21. Discounted parking is \$15 each day. Tickets at the gate will be \$45 each and \$20 for parking. Tickets are available at the museum's website at [www.yankeearmuseum.org](http://www.yankeearmuseum.org). Call (734) 483-4030.

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\*\*\*

Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue of Sumpter are having their monthly pet adoption event this Saturday, Jan. 18, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Petco Store in Westland on Warren Avenue across from the mall. Call (734) 461-9458.

\*\*\*

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\*\*\*

*Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no cost to be in this column.*

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is Online! Visit us @  
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## Jr. Eagles set spaghetti dinner for suicide awareness, prevention

The Junior Order of Eagles (JOEs) is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 18, at the Van Buren Eagles to raise funds for suicide awareness and prevention.

Cost is \$8 per adult and \$4 for children 12

and under. The public is welcome to attend. The event is sponsored in honor of Chris Brown. All proceeds go to the state president's charity, which is awareness and prevention of suicide.

There will be raffle baskets hosted by Melissa Griffith, (734) 395-8573, and April Brown, (734) 391-9743.

Donations and/or raffle baskets for this event may be dropped off at the Van Buren Eagles #3996, 9961 Beck Rd., Van Buren Township.

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| Grave Liner .....                   | \$700.00          |
| Register Book Package .....         | \$140.00          |
| <b>Total</b> .....                  | <b>\$7,125.00</b> |
| Same Day Service .....              | \$6,630.00        |

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|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Service Charge .....           | \$4,890.00        |
| Ceremonial Rental Casket ..... | \$1,095.00        |
| Register Book Package .....    | \$140.00          |
| Crematory .....                | \$180.00          |
| Cremation Authorization .....  | \$75.00           |
| <b>Total</b> .....             | <b>\$6,380.00</b> |
| Same Day Service .....         | \$5,885.00        |

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# Obituaries



Robert Dean Fowler

## ROBERT DEAN FOWLER

(January 12, 1931 – January 11, 2020)  
Age 89, of Belleville. Died peacefully on Saturday evening, January 11, 2020 at the Saline Evangelical Home of Saline. Robert is the beloved husband of Shirley for fifty wonderful years; loving father of Karen (Raymond) Berch of Florida, Kathy (James) Jones of Belleville, Keith (Kim) Gattis of Belleville and Linda (The late Gary) Shaw; cherished grandfather of Kelly Berch of Wayne, Kevin Berch of Texas, Jennifer Jones of Belleville and Julie Jones of Belleville. Mr. Fowler is also survived by many loving family and friends.

A proud veteran of the United States Navy, Robert graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a B.S. degree in education. He retired from the Dundee School System in 1974. In his spare time, he enjoyed woodworking, following Michigan football in the fall and spending time with his family. He will be truly missed.

A funeral service was held at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at Grace Baptist Church, 164 Roys St., Belleville. The Fowler family greeted guests from 4:30 until the time of the service at the church. The Reverend Robert White officiated the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes can be made to Grace Baptist Church.



Lewis "Louie" Hamlett

## LEWIS 'LOUIE' HAMLETT

(January 25, 1951 – November 21, 2019)  
Lewis "Louie" Hamlett, Pinckney, MI, passed away on November 21, 2019.

Louie is remembered for his 40+ years working at Ford Motor Company and dedication to the UAW, specifically Local 898. Louie valued the friendships he made through auctioneering, volunteering around Ypsilanti, and as a member of the Masonic Lodge.

He is survived by his three boys Clifford, Joshua and David and preceded in death by his wife Karen Hamlett.

A memorial service will be held on January 25, 2020 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at UAW Local 898 at 8975 Textile Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.



Frederick William Sweet

## FREDERICK WILLIAM SWEET

(January 18, 1966 – January 8, 2020)  
Van Buren Township Police Officer Frederick Sweet passed away peacefully at his residence early Wednesday morning, January 8, in the company of family members after a long courageous battle with cancer. He was 53.

Fred's career with Van Buren Police Department spanned just over 30 years, from 1989 as a Police Reserve, to Police Officer in 1990.

During his career with Van Buren, he served several years on the Western Wayne County Narcotics Task Force, Western Wayne County Mobile Field Force, as a Field Training Officer, AI Team member, Evidence Technician, Patrol Officer, and on the department's Training Cadre Staff as firearms instructor. Fred was also an adjunct instructor at Schoolcraft College Public Safety Training Center.

He was an avid deer hunter and fisherman who enjoyed displaying his hunting trophies. He liked traveling Up North and staying at his in-laws' cottage. Fred loved spending time with his boys, especially watching them play football and baseball. He also enjoyed handgun shooting competitions.

Beloved husband of Terri. Loving father of Evan, Colin and Austin. Loved son of Betty and the late Lloyd. Cherished brother of Tammy (Bob) Rasmussen, Bob (Janet), Don, Brian (Tiffany) and his sister-in-law Julie. Dear son-in-law of Floyd and Sue Simpson and brother-in-law of Floyd Shawn Simpson. Devoted uncle to Tracie, Kevin, his Godson Andrew, Karson, Graham, Breandan, Kaila, and Jacob. Also survived by his many brothers in blue.

Funeral service was at noon on Saturday, January 11, at the Taylor Chapel of Howe-Peterson Funeral Home, 9800 Telegraph Rd. Share a memory at [www.howepeterson.com](http://www.howepeterson.com).

## Van Buren Fire Fighters put out Sunday blaze at Cork and Bottle

At 1:35 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 5, the Van Buren Township Fire Department was dispatched to a fire at Cork and Bottle party store, 1000 Sumpter Rd.

Fire Marshal Dave McNally said that since the store was practically across the street from VBT Fire Station #1, the fire crew arrived immediately.

He said the fire was in the back room near the hot water tank and it may be that stock was stored too close to the water heater.

He said there was minor damage to the back room, and significant water damage throughout the store, plus some smoke damage.

McNally said the owners may be able to repair the damage and reopen within a week or so.

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# VB School Board elects Amy Pearce as new president

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

Amy Pearce, who was sworn in to her new seat on the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education just a year ago, was unanimously elected board president at Monday's organizational meeting.

This was her first elective office.

Former board president Keith Johnston said he was not running for reelection and he nominated Pearce for the position. He said he wanted to step down and be on the board for the rest of his term to offer his experience to new leadership.

The other officers elected were the same as last year: Vice President Susan Featheringill, Secretary Darlene Loyer Gerick, and Treasurer Simone Pinter.

During the organizational meeting the board also approved regular meeting dates, approved resolutions to establish depositories for school funds for 2020 and to authorize investments for 2020.

Board members were reappointed to the same committees as last year:

- Facilities Committee: Pinter, Johnston, and Gerick;
- Finance Committee: Featheringill, Pinter, and Pearce;
- Health Advisory Committee: Johnston, Owen, and Pinter;
- Policy Committee: Featheringill, Pearce, and Hawkins; and
- School Improvement Committee: Gerick, Owen, and Hawkins.

During the organizational meeting, the board also received certificates of appreciation from the Michigan Association of School Boards and bright yellow bags of gifts from the local school district.

The district was celebrating January as School Board Member Recognition Month and there were sweet treats and soft drinks for the board and public present.

School Supt. Pete Kudlak thanked board members for all the work they do, as he handed out the certificates and the bags. He also thanked a long list of local organizations and individuals for their gifts to students during the holiday season.

The regular meeting began at 7:20 p.m. and the board:

- Approved the resignation of teacher Kelly Zmudczynski from Edgemont Elementary School as of Dec. 20, 2019 with less than a year of service, for personal reasons, and Rodney Fisher from McBride Middle School after 33 years of service for retirement as of Dec. 19, 2019. He was an assistant principal and will be replaced by a counselor;

- Approved resignations of non-instructional staff members Stefanie Steffes from Edgemont as of Jan. 10 for personal reasons after two years of service; and Phil Shanks, head custodian at Rawsonville, as of Jan. 31, after 19 years of service;

- Heard Rob Kakoczki of Plante Moran CRESA give a bond update presentation and then passed a resolution to sell the first series of bonds for \$13 million. This first series will build the Early Childhood Development Center on the property purchased from St. Anthony and redo Davis Street. Series 2 bonds will be sold in 2022 and Series 3 bonds in 2024. The bonds were approved by voters in the Nov. 5 election;

- Approved the second reading and adoption of seven board policies. The policies were discussed at the last meeting of the board in December; and

- Learned the Jr. ROTC at the high school was inspected and did drills for a military officer, who also looked at each student's uniform, hair, and the number enrolled at the school, and this will determine the future status of the group. The school currently pays to have the group and, in the future, if the local group passes the inspections, the Navy could pay to have it at BHS.

## It's Pothole Season

The Wayne County Department of Public Services said it can't fix potholes unless it knows where they are. Report Wayne County potholes to 1-888-ROAD-CREW.

## School Supt. Kudlak thanks those who gave holiday gifts to students

At the Jan. 13 meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, School Supt. Pete Kudlak thanked the following list of people, families, and businesses for their generous donations in the month of December:

BYC – Belleville Yacht Club and Robert and Carrie Castino for gifts for 16 families and their children; Holiday Inn Express-Jessica for hats, mittens and scarfs; Belleville Rotary Club (Deb Green and Brian Percy) for coats; Van Buren Township and Clerk Leon Wright for coats, hats, and gloves; and the Landrum Family, Beasley Family, Columbia Court Senior Apartment Building, Visteon, Unified Communities Federal Credit Union, Dolan Family, Tinsley Family, Delph Family, Ms. James, Bethany Bible Church, Inspiration Hair Salon, Belleville Fire Department Auxiliary, Kelly Owen, VB Police and Fire (Shop with a Hero), Open Arms Church, United Methodist Church, A-Design Line Embroidery, Wayne County Fair Grounds, Mary Ledford from Dean Ledford Memorial Fund, UAW Local 898 – Ford Rawsonville Plant, UAW Local 892 – Saline Plant, Trinity Church, Mahogany Tate's Family, Darlene Ramey, Kathy Mular – Women's Club, Trinity Episcopal Church, Edward Jones in Belleville, Belleville Eagles, Shall Family, Peggy Curtis, Belleville Co-Op, and many school employees and school PTOs.

## Obituaries



Susan Shirley Hamrick

### SUSAN SHIRLEY HAMRICK

(March 24, 1947 – January 5, 2020)

Age 72, of Ann Arbor. Died peacefully, Sunday morning, January 5, 2020 at UPMC Passavant Hospital in the greater Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania region.

Susan is the beloved mother of Kimberly Wheeler (Kevin Cheek) of Dexter, MI and Lissa (Paul) Navetta of Pittsburgh, PA; loving grandmother of Kyle, Kiara, Quinn and Drew. Ms. Hamrick is also survived by her brothers Michael Welt of Grayling, MI and Daniel (Janice) Welt of Belleville, MI; and many loving extended family and friends.

Born on March 24, 1947 to Everett and Shirley Welt in Ypsilanti, Susan graduated from Belleville High School (*Class of 1965*). She enjoyed painting, crocheting and spending time with her grandchildren.

Visitation was 3-7 p.m. Friday and Noon until 1 p.m. Saturday, January 11, 2020 with a 1 p.m. Funeral at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Pastor Gordon Moore officiated. Interment followed in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Heart Association or Alzheimer's Association. [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com)



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# Keystone Academy cuts one eighth grade class for September

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor  
Keystone Academy Charter School in

Sumpter Township will eliminate one of its eighth-grade classes next school year because of a decreased number of eighth graders at the school.

There will be two eighth-grade classes instead of three in the Kindergarten-to-eighth-grade school.

The enrollment was set at 746 for the 2020-21 school year, down from 768 for the 2019-20 year.

This includes 24 in full-day Young Fives; 84 in full-day Kindergarten and first through fifth grades; 81 in sixth and seventh; and 56 in eighth grade.

"We don't recruit for eighth grade," said Principal Jorvonna Drain. "Other than that, the total school number will be the same as last year."

Nancy Kouba of National Heritage Academies, that manages the education program at Keystone, said Keystone will recruit for Kindergarten through fifth grade and graduate proficient eighth graders.

School board president Vesta Losen said if students begin at the school early and stay until graduation from eighth grade, they end up among the top students at the high schools they attend.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

At the regular meeting of the Keystone Academy charter school board on Jan. 9, board members were serenaded by music teacher Kelly VandeGuchte and Josie, left, and Lila Mallari with a ukulele rendition of "You Are My Sunshine." The words were altered to tell the board how grateful they are for the extra ukes purchased for the students to play.

She said often Keystone students are in the top-ten senior graduates at Belleville High School and many times the valedictorians are former Keystone students.

Principal Drain said this year there are 57 eighth graders and 59 seventh graders.

Kouba said students are making the decisions on education these days and talking parents into leaving schools like Keystone.

She said it's not just Keystone, but other charter schools across the country.

Kouba said students want to leave charter

schools to be with their friend, to play athletics, and they don't like the school dress code.

When asked how many students are in a classroom in the upper grades, Kouba said there were 78 students in sixth grade which has 25 or 26 per classroom. In the seventh grade there are 20 per class and in the eighth grade 23 per class.

"I don't want to see lower classes overloaded," Losen said, and she was told

(continued on page 10)

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# Keystone

(continued from page 9)

by Kouba that would not happen.

The board approved the reduced number of seats available for next school year.

In other business at the Jan. 9 regular meeting, the board:

- Heard Kouba congratulate Keystone for being named third in NHA's 89 schools for improving student attendance. Principal Drain agreed Keystone has been working on it with families. She also said the procedure in the parking lot for those dropping off and picking up students has improved;

- Heard Drain announce the new Chromebooks for students have been purchased by NHA and the school is waiting for delivery. She said Keystone is very close to a 1:1 ratio of students and computers and maybe next year it will be that. She said the students do not take the Chromebooks home;

- Heard Losen say Bay Mills Community College, which authorizes Keystone's charter, had suggested its schools each write a letter to the six in the State Legislature who were instrumental in recently getting the \$240 per student allocated to charter schools. Losen read the letter she composed and board members agreed to having it signed Keystone Academy Board and sending it on to the legislators;

- Discussed the athletic equipment shed that was approved by the board last summer and still not constructed. NHA representative Andrew Roth said the local contractor is still willing to do it, but the NHA requirement for a different kind of insurance is a hold up. Roth said he talked to the contractor and was referred to the contractor's insurance agent to get the documents he needs. Roth said he asked if NHA could do it in case this contractor doesn't work out. He said he hopes to have it in place this summer;

- Discussed the 2020 National Charter Schools Conference in Orlando on June 21-24 at an estimated cost of \$2,450 each. It looked like board members weren't going to go, so Principal Drain will ask her deans if they are interested in attending. Losen said the conference she attended in Washington, D.C. did not have much for a small school like Keystone, but they might get some good ideas. An action item to approve funds for the conference was set aside until the board knows how much it needs;

- Discussed proposed board meeting nights for the next school year. They generally are 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month. There was some discussion about changing the meeting night to a Monday to facilitate attendance of board vice president Darren Hickonbottom, who is a basketball coach with games on Thursdays during the boys' and girls' seasons. Principal Drain said she had changed her daughter's after-school activities to clear the Thursday meeting nights, but she said she could deal with a change. After more discussion it was agreed to keep the present schedule, with a change from April 8, 2021 to April 15, 2021. Also, the April 2020 meeting will be changed to April 16;

- Agreed the February 2020 meeting will be cancelled due to lack of quorum;

- Approved the reappointment of Losen to another three-year term and heard board secretary Connie Shull say she has decided not to accept another appointment to the board because of the health of her husband. She will complete the end of her term in June, she said. This means the board is looking for another board member and will welcome suggestions;

- Agreed to wait until April or May when the new board member is present for a board development session;

- Heard Brittany Cook of Bay Mills tell the board to mark its calendar to attend the

April 30 Bay Mills Conference. "We should all go, if possible," Losen said;

- Heard Principal Drain report the annual canned food drive was a success with 1,718 food items donated to the Belleville/Van Buren Goodfellows Program. Miss Leppen's class collected the most items. Also the holiday concerts by the band and seventh-eighth-grade choir students were great successes and 184 students were honored for perfect attendance for the month of December; and

- Learned Andrea Vlademar has been hired as the new intervention paraprofessional and Theresa Mitchell, who worked on the lunch program, will be a special education paraprofessional for a new third grader with needs. Now a lunch position is open. Also, a social worker position is still open.

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Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

On Monday, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education posed for a picture with their new president, Amy Pearce. Seated, from left, are Secretary Darlene Loyer Gerick, President Pearce, Treasurer Simone Pinter, and Vice President Susan Featheringill. Standing, from left, are Trustees Keith Johnston, Calvin Hawkins, and Kelly Owen. Johnston, who had served as president, said he wanted to step back and be present to share his experience with new board leadership. He nominated Pearce and she was unanimously voted in.



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8:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.





A recent spaghetti dinner fund raiser at the Belleville Moose earned \$1,980 for Fisher House Michigan. From left are Moose representative Kathie Steigerwald, Fisher House representative Suzanne Schaffrath, and Moose representative Nancy Summers. Money was raised from a raffle for a homemade red, white and blue quilt made by Nancy Summers and won by Susie McCallister. Steigerwald also ran a raffle with the help of many businesses in the community. Steigerwald gave many thanks to everyone who supported this fund-raising event and donated to make it such a success. Michigan's first Fisher House is due to open in early summer in Ann Arbor, with a ribbon-cutting scheduled for the middle of June. "This could never happen without the generous donating by so many," she said. "I will continue raising funds for the second Fisher House which will be located behind the John Dingell Veterans Hospital in Detroit."

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# Belleville Post Office Letter Carriers honored for safe driving

For most drivers, luck would play a role in driving accident-free for 30 years. However, Belleville, MI Post Office letter carriers will be the first to tell you it's not a matter of luck; it's a matter of taking the time to drive safely no matter how much of a hurry other people are in.

Now imagine the equivalent of driving 334 times across the country or 40 times around the globe each without ever leaving the city limits, and imagine doing it safely, under hazardous road conditions, gridlock, rural terrain, and with a vigilant eye on inattentive drivers.

As a result of their achievement, Letter Carriers Tina Debord and Michelle Rodriguez were honored at a Million Mile Club awards ceremony on Thursday, Jan. 9, at the Belleville Post Office, 45601 S. I-94 Service Drive, Van Buren Township.

Rodriguez is a Safety Captain for the Belleville Post Office and is serious about reminding co-workers about safety.

"I remind everybody how to stay alive," she said. "Safety doesn't stop at work. Carry over healthy habits at home, too." Rodriguez maintains her healthy habits at home as an instructor for a cardio class.

"When driving, I watch my surroundings," said Debord. "You can't predict when a child, dog, or an unsafe driver will suddenly appear. You can only control yourself when driving so I am always on alert."

"Our postal drivers are amongst the safest drivers in the nation," said Detroit District Manager Karlett Gilbert. "The safety of our employees is our top priority, and we are proud our comprehensive safe driver training program is second to none."

Each driver was presented with a plaque from the Safety Council and automatic membership in the prestigious National Safety Council "Million Mile Club." The million-mile award is a lifetime enrollment, and it is given to drivers who have accumulated one-million miles or 30 years of driving without being involved in a preventable motor vehicle accident. According to the National Safety Council, it takes about 30 years to accumulate one-million miles.

Rodriguez and Debord agree that defensive driving is the key to safety.



During the Jan. 9 award ceremony for the Belleville Post Office Million Milers from left are Manager of Post Office Operations Stephanie Brantley, Postmaster Kimberly Wiseman-Thomas, Letter Carriers Tina Debord and Michelle Rodriguez, and District Manager Karlett Gilbert.

They attribute their accident-free driving to being constantly alert for dangers, anticipating the actions of other drivers,

paying attention to their surroundings, looking ahead, checking mirrors, following

the rules of the road, and giving themselves enough time to react in a safe manner.

## CIA/Air America pilot to present 'Last Plane Out of Cambodia'

Former Air America pilot Capt. Neil Hansen began his aviation career in Detroit as a pilot for Teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa.

He later spent more than a decade in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War era as a captain for the CIA's airline that operated there during the Vietnam era and the "Secret War" in Laos. His adrenaline addiction then took him to a flying job in Cambodia just prior to the Khmer Rouge takeover.

He will present his story – "Last Plane Out of Cambodia" -- at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 5, at the Yankee Air Museum, 47884

D. Street, at Willow Run Airport in Van Buren Township.

The event is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and there is no admission after 8 p.m. For information, call (734) 483-4030.

Capt. Hansen's presentations bring audiences with him into the cockpit and onto the dirt mountain landing strips of Southeast Asia during a time in history when flying conditions were risky and avionics technology comparatively primitive.

A sought-after speaker in the aviation community and frequent presenter at EAA Oshkosh, Hansen is the author of "FLIGHT: An Air America Pilot's Story of Adventure, Descent and Redemption" (History Publishing, 2019).

The historical aviation narrative

incorporates the pathos of a war zone and its periphery, including Hansen's harrowing escape piloting the last plane out of Cambodia hours before it fell to the Khmer Rouge, and later his inability to let go of the Air America adrenaline addiction that took him down a path he could have never imagined.

This spring marks the 45th anniversary of the fall of Saigon. Most Americans are unaware that the iconic photo of that day, "The Last Helicopter" by photographer Hugh van Es, is an Air America helicopter, and not a military chopper.

The fall of Saigon was preceded by days by the fall of Cambodia, in which 1.7 million Cambodians lost their lives. Capt. Hansen fled mere hours before the Khmer Rouge closed the airspace.

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# SEMCOG appoints Lothringer to economic development task force

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) has announced the appointment of Van Buren Township D o w n t o w n D e v e l o p m e n t Authority (DDA) Assistant Director Lisa Lothringer to the SEMCOG Planning and Economic Development Task Force.



Lothringer

Since its inception in 1968, SEMCOG has acted as a regional planning partner with local member governments within the Southeast Michigan region (Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties).

Using technical, data and intergovernmental resources, SEMCOG says it works to improve the quality of the region's water, making the transportation system safer and more efficient, revitalizes communities, and spurs economic development.

SEMCOG promotes the efficient use of tax dollars for infrastructure investment and governmental effectiveness, and advocates on behalf of Southeast Michigan in Lansing and Washington.

The SEMCOG Planning and Economic Development Task Force is focused on the three economic development pillars of *place, business and talent*. This Task Force will concentrate on moving Southeast Michigan forward from recovery to opportunity and shared prosperity,

according to SEMCOG. A variety of strategies will be considered to showcase Southeast Michigan's desirability as a place to start, grow, and conduct business.

"I am very excited to have been chosen to take part in helping to shape the future of Southeast Michigan," Lothringer said.

Lothringer has been with the Van Buren Township DDA for more than five years and is responsible for public relations and marketing, working to promote the DDA business district and Van Buren Township as a whole.

Most recently, Lothringer was the project manager for the \$1.15 million Quirk Park Splash Pad and Playground project, which was recently recognized as the winner of the 2019/20 Michigan Recreation and Park Association (mParks) Design Award.

Lothringer holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Siena Heights University in Adrian, where she graduated *magna cum laude*, and an Associate of Science from Monroe County Community College.

*To build a better world,  
start in your own community*

## Visteon opens new engineering center in Queretaro, Mexico

Visteon, a supplier of digital automotive dashboard electronics, has opened a newly constructed engineering center in Querétaro, Mexico.

Reflecting a multi-million-dollar investment, the new engineering center is said to complement Visteon's global headquarters and technical center in Van Buren Township.

Visteon says its Querétaro Technical Center (VTCQ) is home to highly skilled software, hardware and mechanical engineers responsible for developing advanced cockpit electronics products for North America-based vehicle manufacturers.

These products include digital instrument clusters, infotainment and information displays – and new technologies for connected and autonomous driving.

The 6,000-square meter world-class engineering center includes two floors of collaborative workspace, four stories of underground parking and amenities such as

a gym, outdoor terrace and on-site cafeteria.

The facility is expected to reach full capacity of nearly 600 employees within a year.

Visteon's employees support growth with the company's North America customers, such as Ford, Fiat Chrysler automobiles, General Motors, Nissan and Honda.

Matt Cole, senior vice president, product development, said, "Visteon's comprehensive platforms leverage proven, scalable hardware and software solutions for cost efficiency, which has led to growth with our North America customers.

"To support that growth, our engineers in Querétaro will develop and support cutting-edge technology that will redefine the user experience and active safety."

Visteon plans to create a complete technology campus and further expand its presence in Querétaro.

The company has acquired office space minutes away from VTCQ, which will

be transformed into a unique laboratory building.

The lab will support vibration, environmental and EMC (electromagnetic compatibility) testing, and it will be a fully capable DV/PV certification testing laboratory with up to 20 testing chambers.

The 2,175-square-meter lab will house 35 engineers and technicians, and include a 460-square meter mezzanine for up to another 70 engineers.

Construction of the new lab is expected to be complete in the first half of 2020.

Visteon selected the city of Querétaro due to its technology ecosystem and high-caliber software and validation talent pool.

VTCQ is located minutes from UNITEC Technological University of Mexico, and Visteon is well-positioned to tap into technical talent from the university and surrounding areas.

*News release*

## Treasury: Scammers using fake letters in collections scam

Michigan taxpayers with past-due tax debts should be aware of an aggressive scam that's making the rounds through the U.S. Postal Service, according to the Michigan Department of Treasury (Treasury).

In the scheme, taxpayers receive what appears to be a government-looking letter about an overdue tax bill, asking individuals to immediately contact a toll-free number to resolve a state tax debt. The letter aggressively threatens to seize a taxpayer's assets – including property and Social Security benefits – if the state tax debt is not settled.

"This is a tricky scam that's been reported throughout the state over the past year," said Deputy State Treasurer Ann Good, who oversees Treasury's Financial

and Administrative Services programs. "Taxpayers have rights. If you have questions about an outstanding state tax debt, please contact us through a verified number so we can talk about options."

The piece of correspondence appears credible to the taxpayer because it uses specific personal facts about their real outstanding tax debt that's pulled directly from publicly available information. The scammer's letter attempts to lure the taxpayer into a situation where they could make a payment to a criminal.

The state Treasury Department corresponds with taxpayers through official letters sent through the U.S. Postal Service, providing several options to resolve an outstanding debt and information outlining taxpayer rights.

Taxpayers who receive a letter from a scammer or have questions about their state debts should call Treasury's Collections Service Center at (517) 636-5265. A customer service representative can log the scam, verify outstanding state debts and provide flexible payment options.

To learn more about Michigan's taxes and the collections process, go to [www.michigan.gov/taxes](http://www.michigan.gov/taxes) or follow the state Treasury Department on Twitter at @MITreasury.



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Independent photo by James Oztman

The Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority's Placemaking Project at 10151 Belleville Rd., immediately south of Aldi's, is expected to have a public open house soon. The \$3 million project, which includes a small park with free Wi-Fi and a path to Westlake Apartments, houses two private offices, a meeting room to house the DDA's monthly meetings and proposed meetings of other community groups, a smaller room with stuffed furniture and a gas fireplace, a kitchen, and a bathroom between the two offices with a shower.

## Cartoon to the Editor



## LARA suspends builder licenses of jailed VBT business owner Holder

Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Affairs' (LARA) Bureau of Construction Codes last March issued an Order of Summary Suspension of the builder salesperson license of Bruce Charles Holder in Fenton, under the residential builder company license of Empire Today, LLC, located at 41133 Van Born Rd., Van Buren Township.

On Dec. 19, 2018, Holder brandished a handgun in a road rage incident in Oakland County and pointed it at another motorist while driving southbound on I-275. He was charged with firing the handgun from his vehicle in the direction of another motorist who apparently cut him off and then he sped off. He missed hitting anything.

On Dec. 21, 2018, Holder was arrested by a fugitive task force at a home in Fenton and charged with five felonies: discharge of a firearm from a motor vehicle; possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony; carrying a concealed weapon; assault with a dangerous weapon; and possession of a firearm in the commission of a felony. Holder's conduct constitutes a lack of good moral character in violation of section 604(d) of the Code, LARA said.

The Michigan Occupational Code provides for summary suspension of licenses when the public health, safety, or welfare requires emergency action. An order of summary suspension is a temporary measure to protect the public and not a final determination that a licensee has violated the Occupational Code.

LARA also on March 6 served an accompanying Formal Complaint against Holder detailing revocation of his individual builder license, a subsequent formal complaint against his revoked individual builder license, and the five criminal offenses charged against him. He had 15 days to respond to the Formal Complaint. Otherwise, the case was to be forwarded to the Michigan Administrative Hearing System for a contested case hearing before an administrative law judge.

Before entering into a building or

renovation project, Michigan consumers are encouraged to verify license information by going to <https://www.lara.michigan.gov/colaLicVerify/>.

Or, contact Bureau of Construction Codes at (517) 241-9316 or email at: [lara-bcc-licensing@michigan.gov](mailto:lara-bcc-licensing@michigan.gov) and the bureau can run a license check for you. Consumers are reminded that there is no replacement for their own due diligence, LARA said.

On Oct. 10, 2019, Holder pleaded no contest to two weapons charges, each carrying a two-year sentence. His earliest release date is Oct. 6, 2021. He received sentences of three years of probation each on the other three charges.

## BHS at-home games

• **Friday, Jan. 17:** Boys' Freshman Basketball vs Fordson High School, 5:30 p.m.; Boys' JV Basketball vs Fordson High School, 5:30 p.m.; Boys' Varsity Dive Tiger Invitational 6 p.m.; Boys' Varsity Basketball vs Fordson High School, 7 p.m.

• **Saturday, Jan 18:** Boys' Swim/Dive Tiger Invitational 10 a.m.; Boys' Varsity Ice Hockey vs South Lyon High School, 7 p.m. at Allen Park Ice Arena

• **Tuesday, Jan 21:** Boys' Freshman Basketball vs John Glenn High School, 5:30 p.m.; Boys' JV Basketball vs John Glenn High School, 5:30 p.m.; Boys' Varsity Basketball vs John Glenn High School, 7 p.m.

Go Tigers!

Diane Kiessel

Belleville High School Athletic Secretary

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## City of Belleville Public Notice



### POLICE VEHICLE AUCTION

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE UNDERSIGNED THAT ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. at J&T Towing, 287 Industrial Park Drive, Belleville, County of Wayne, Michigan a public sale of the following vehicles will be held:

2002 CHRYSLER, FOUR DOOR, VIN: 2C3HD36M22H182385  
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1994 CHEVROLET, PICKUP, VIN: 1GCEC14Z7RZ107504

DATE: JANUARY 13, 2020

BELLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
6 MAIN STREET

PUBLISH: JANUARY 16, 2020

BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 48111

BY SHERRI SCHARF, CITY CLERK



## Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Saturday, Jan. 18** – Wild Game Dinner at Wayne County Fairgrounds Dining Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m., appetizers at 6:30

p.m., and dinner at 7 p.m. \$40 per person.  
• **Saturday, Jan. 18** – Spaghetti Dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. at Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Rd., to raise funds to promote awareness and prevention of suicide. Sponsored by Jr. Order of Eagles (JOEs) in honor of Chris Brown. Raffle baskets. Cost is \$8 each for adults and \$4 each for

children 12 and under.

• **Tuesday, Jan. 21** – General meeting of the Belleville Area Lions Club, 6-7:30 p.m., Wayne County Community College Ted Scott Campus, 9555 Haggerty Rd., Rm. C104.

• **Thursday, Jan. 23** – Western Wayne (County) Democratic Club monthly

meeting at 7 p.m. at the Wayne County Fairgrounds. Jim Kosteva from Voters Not Politicians will be presenting an update. Barbara Miller is ordering pizza to kick off the club's first event of 2020. All welcome.

"I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize."  
– Steven Wright

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## HELP WANTED

## WANTED

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# VBT Plan

(continued from page 3)

he had 15 more years of experience than Martin and he knows what happens.

Belleville Fire Chief Brian Loranger, who lives in VBT, said a fire truck has to have a siren and light on the way to the location. Later Chief Loranger said the fire department would get in trouble if it didn't have lights and sirens on on the way to heart attacks and strokes.

Martin invited people to tour their locations and said he would get the addresses for them. As to why the LLC isn't registered with the state, Martin said they have different LLCs for each location for tax purposes.

At this point chairwoman Thompson ended the public hearing and said the commission will not proceed with the rest of the agenda -- approval of the special land use (which would then be sent on to the township board) and approval of the preliminary site plan.

Motions were made and passed to close the public hearing, to postpone additional discussion, and to adjourn the meeting.

Director Best said the applicant, Power, Krishnan, and himself will be stationed around the room to answer questions for a time following the meeting.

Power said there were 17 emails received

on this issue and they have been distributed to the commission members and also were being passed around the meeting room so, "People know they're being heard."

In a memo to the commission from Power and Krishnan on Jan. 7, the day before the meeting, the size of the proposed building was questioned, but this was not mentioned at the public hearing. The memo reads:

"The Township adopted a zoning ordinance amendment to allow for Senior Housing within the Township a few months ago. Senior housing has been a recent use that many communities are making provisions for. In some, senior housing is allowable in single family residential districts; however, in Van Buren, the Township decided that senior housing would be held to a higher standard than a single-family residential use, therefore, the use was permitted in the C, C-1, C-2, MU, RM and RMH Districts.

"Senior Housing is permitted only as a special land use in all of the districts noted above, to allow the Township to have greater say in mitigating any potential adverse impacts from such use. The size of the development is determined by the specific design standards for the landscaping, buffering, screening, tree replacement, storm-water detention, etc. The C district however has a limitation on the maximum building size for a single use. The intent behind this limitation was

to restrict the traffic generated from any single commercial use. This standard was not intended for residential type uses in the commercial district. The C district currently allows for sit down restaurants, strip commercial buildings, professional medical and dental offices by right. These uses typically occupy a smaller footprint building but generate a significant amount of traffic and road trips. Senior housing is considered to be a lower intensity use than those allowable in the C district, since the traffic generated by such use is significantly less.

"When the Senior Housing ordinance was adopted, the intent was to have stringent site design standards that would ensure a development that would alleviate any negative impacts. The conflict with an existing ordinance provision was unexpected. We believe the existing C district restriction serves the community well with regard to commercial uses and the intensity they bring; however, it is not an appropriate application for a use that is residential in nature.

"Section 3 of the original amendment presented before the PC and Board of Trustees states 'All other provisions of the Zoning Ordinance, or Ordinances or parts of Ordinances, in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.' While this section can be used, we believe the correct approach would be to amend the Senior Housing ordinance to provide clarification regarding the building size being governed by site designs standards and not the underlying district."

## Court Watching:

## Sumpter man serving time in federal prison for distributing fentanyl

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

Demetre Maurice Brown-Lovelace, 29, of Sumpter Township and Noelle Tufts, 24, of Ironton, Ohio, were both sentenced to federal prison by U.S. District Court Judge David L. Bunning on Aug. 13, 2018 for conspiracy to distribute fentanyl.

The two previously admitted that in April 2017 they conspired together with others to distribute 209 grams of fentanyl, according to the Department of Justice. Both entered guilty pleas to the conspiracy charge in May, 2018.

Brown-Lovelace was sentenced to 10 years in prison, while Tufts received a sentence of five years. Brown-Lovelace had a prior conviction for trafficking in a controlled substance, heroin, from the Boyd County Circuit Court in Kentucky in April 2016.

Each will have to serve 85% of their sentence, in accordance with federal law. On court documents Brown-Lovelace's current release date is listed as Feb. 1, 2026.

After their releases, Brown-Lovelace will be on probation for eight years and Tufts for four years. Brown-Lovelace was remanded to the federal prison in Milan, MI, and now is at the Gilmer Federal prison in Glenville, WV.

The sentences were announced jointly by U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky Robert M. Duncan, Jr., FBI Special Agent in Charge Robert Allan Jones from the Pittsburg Field Office and Kentucky State Police Commissioner Richard Sanders.

The investigation was conducted by the FBI Huntington, W.Va. Resident Agency and the Kentucky State Police. The United States was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Cynthia T. Reiker.

Brown-Lovelace also served five years in a Michigan prison for home invasion first degree and was discharged Sept. 10, 2015.

A few days later, on Sept. 12, 2015, he was charged with uttering and publishing in Sumpter Township, with Officer Brian Steffani in charge of that case. A warrant for his arrest remained in effect until early in 2019 when Wayne County Prosecutor offered him a plea deal -- by mail.

If Brown-Lovelace would plead guilty to the uttering and publishing charge, he would be sentenced to 93 days and be able to serve it concurrently with his ten years.

He replied by mail with the guilty plea and on April 12, 2019, 34<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge Brian A. Oakley cancelled the warrant for his arrest, credited him with time served, and closed the case.

"I fear the day that technology will surpass our human interaction. The world will have a generation of idiots."  
— Albert Einstein



## They're reading the Independent everywhere

Sharon Curson of Sumpter Township reads the Independent at sunrise at the summit of Haleakala volcano (House of the Sun) on the Hawaiian Island of Maui on Sept. 6, 2019. "It was breathtaking to watch the sunrise and quite an experience!" she said.

You, too, are invited to submit a photo of you reading the Independent in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions -- and no more.

If you aren't going to an exotic location, just send us \$30 for postage to an address inside Michigan or \$35 out of state, and we'll provide mail delivery of the Independent so you won't miss a single, exciting issue.

**One Call Does It All . . .  
. . . At the Independent  
699-9020**

### PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.





# Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

*Out of the 496 dispatch calls for service reported by Van Buren Township police, the following are selected for this column.*

**Sunday, Jan. 5:**  
0015 – noise complaint, Meadows Ln./Meadows Cir.  
0033 – motorist assist, Haggerty Rd./E. Huron River Dr.  
0143 – assist other dept., N. Cumberland Dr.  
0158 – larceny from auto, Denton Rd.  
0503 – 911 welfare check, Tyler Rd.  
0906 – suspicious person/vehicle, Outer Dr.  
1039 – larceny from auto, Rawsonville Rd.  
1154 – suicidal person, Coolidge St.  
1241 – suspicious person/vehicle, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.  
1352 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1409 – hospice death, Brookside Dr.  
1450 – personal injury accident, Sumpter Rd.  
1515 – animal complaint, Riggs Rd.  
1538 – found property/child, Denton Rd.  
1557 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1755 – threat, Village Center Dr.  
1840 – sexual assault, Quirk Rd.  
2009 – fight, Quirk Rd.  
2028 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Archwood  
2038 – holdup alarm, Belleville Rd.  
2118 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.  
2253 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.

**Monday, Jan. 6:**  
0058 – assist other dept., E. Huron River Dr. / Haggerty Rd.  
0906 – domestic, Locust Dr.  
0911 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service  
0921 – mental subject, Denton Rd.  
0947 – domestic, Sheldon Rd.  
1140 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.  
1149 – property damage accident, Haggerty/I-94  
1252 – larceny from auto, S. Bellridge Dr.  
1357 – fraud, Bradley Dr.  
1455 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd.  
1504 – property damage accident, Lancaster Dr. / Berkdale Dr.  
1549 – civil matter, Daisy Blvd.  
1602 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.  
1645 – suspicious person/vehicle, Oak Ln.  
1919 – suspicious person/vehicle, Park Estates Dr.  
2127 – fraud, Oak Ln.  
2259 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.

**Tuesday, Jan. 7:**  
0152 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ecorse/Hannan  
0900 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd. / E I-94  
0907 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.  
1025 – found property/child, Martz Rd.  
1126 – follow up by officer, McBride  
1337 – assist other dept., Belleville Rd.  
1344 – lost property/child, Country Ln.  
1448 – shooting, Dellor St.  
1513 – animal complaint, Belleville Rd./Tyler Rd.  
1602 – fraud, Haggerty Rd.  
1737 – neighbor trouble, Birch Dr.  
1739 – animal complaint, E. Huron River Dr. / Metro Park  
1806 – larceny, Oak Ln.  
1943 – suspicious person/vehicle, Milton Dr.  
1953 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2144 – family trouble, Rose Blvd.  
2158 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2218 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2258 – overdose, S. I-94 Service Dr.

**Wednesday, Jan. 8:**  
0702 – disorderly, Quirk Rd.  
0727 – domestic, Winchester St.  
0743 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Morton Taylor Rd.  
0753 – assault & battery, Wildbrook Dr.  
0835 – personal injury accident, Michigan/Denton  
0836 – animal complaint, America  
0919 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Hancock Ave.  
1008 – motorist assist, Belleville/Quirk  
1012 – ordinance violation, Savage Rd.  
1030 – suicidal person, Arthur St.

1112 – assist other dept., Parkwood Dr.  
1212 – suspicious person/vehicle, Pebblebrook Dr.  
1226 – breaking & entering, Ecorse Rd.  
1604 – neighbor trouble, Winding Pond Dr.  
1711 – malicious destruction of property, Denton  
1729 – assist other dept., Solitude Ln.  
1902 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2035 – trespassing, S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2106 – domestic, Oak Ln.  
2230 – road hazard, Maple  
2325 – suspicious person/vehicle, Kirkridge Park

**Thursday, Jan. 9:**  
0021 – civil matter, Spruce Ln.  
0037 – assist other dept., T-Rex  
0247 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service  
0432 – mental subject, Jackson St.  
0517 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.  
1156 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.  
1328 – animal complaint, W. Walden Dr.  
1342 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hamilton Ct.  
1408 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1616 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
1652 – juvenile complaint, Oak Blvd.  
1657 – fraud, Tavistock Dr.  
1709 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.  
2235 – noise complaint, S. Purple Sage Ct.

**Friday, Jan. 10:**  
1127 – follow up by officer, Tyler Rd.  
1222 – private property impound, Van Born  
1235 – juvenile complaint, Parkwood Dr.  
1234 – trespassing, N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1236 – juvenile complaint, Lighthouse Dr.  
1238 – juvenile complaint, Stoneybrook Ct.  
1351 – fraud, Belleville  
1622 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Independence Ln.  
1659 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Huron River  
1712 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Parkside Dr.

1846 – property damage accident, Belleville/E I-94  
1919 – fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2029 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Bellridge Dr.  
2127 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.  
2253 – noise complaint, Village Green Ln.  
2256 – juvenile complaint, Fay Dr.  
2312 – suspicious person/vehicle, Arthur St. / Van Buren St.  
2344 – overdose, Robbe Rd.

**Saturday, Jan. 11:**  
0257 – noise complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl.  
0544 – domestic, Parkwood Dr.  
0729 – abandoned auto, Ecorse Rd./S I-275  
1055 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Beck  
1123 – larceny from auto, Jackson St.  
1249 – motorist assist, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.  
1344 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service  
1736 – larceny, Stratford Dr.  
1750 – suicidal person, Haggerty Rd./Robbe Rd.  
1801 – neighbor trouble, Parkwood Dr.  
1845 – lost property/child, Belleville Rd.  
2202 – animal complaint, maple Dr.  
2347 – malicious destruction of property, Parkwood Dr.

Also, on this week’s log are 171 traffic stops, with 75 of those being on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

# Belleville Police Dispatch Log

**Sunday, Jan. 5:**  
0315 – suspicious person/vehicle, South St.  
1337 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.

**Monday, Jan. 6:**  
0019 – breaking & entering, N. Liberty St.  
0050 – noise complaint, Carmell St.  
0120 – parking complaint, Carmell St.  
0141 – parking complaint, Carmell St.  
1101 – warrant arrest, Ford/I-275  
1504 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Columbia  
1640 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.  
2002 – assist fire dept., Loza Ln.

**Tuesday, Jan. 7:**  
0058 – suspicious person/vehicle, Victorian Ln.  
1653 – assist fire dept., N. Biggs Ave.

**Wednesday, Jan. 8:**  
0734 – intrusion alarm, E. Waterbury Ct.  
1505 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.  
1610 – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.  
2241 – intrusion alarm, Fifth St.

**Thursday, Jan. 9:**  
1130 – assist other dept., W. Columbia Ave.  
1458 – fraud, Biggs Ave.  
1828 – operating while intoxicated, N. Liberty St. / Main St.  
2327 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.

**Friday, Jan. 10:**  
0032 – intrusion alarm, Main St.  
1026 – parking complaint, Liberty/Fourth  
1122 – suspicious person/vehicle, Bedell St.  
1525 – hospice death, Menlo Park Dr.  
1529 – traffic offense, Main St.  
1607 – property damage accident, Sumpter Rd. / Belle Villa Blvd.

**Saturday, Jan. 11:**  
0851 – assist other dept., Main St.  
0925 – intrusion alarm, Carmell St.  
1101 – assist fire dept., Sumpter Rd.  
1115 – assist fire dept., N. Liberty St.  
1145 -- unauthorized driving away of auto, N. Aberdeen Ct.  
1209 – assist fire dept., E. Columbia Ave. / S. Liberty St.  
1453 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.  
Also, on this week’s log are 18 traffic stops.

# Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

**Sunday, Dec. 22:**  
0009 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
0220 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
0649 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.  
0847 – welfare check, Stonecrest Dr.  
1058 – subpoena service, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.  
1455 – 911 hang up, 20000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1611 – welfare check, Rawsonville/Bemis  
2000 – alarm, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.  
2130 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
2349 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

**Monday, Dec. 23:**  
0733 – civil matter, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
0747 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.  
0753 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1055 – fire dept. assist, Country Club Blvd.  
1137 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1147 – civil matter, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
1315 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln. W.  
1344 – property damage accident, Willis Rd. / Rawsonville Rd.  
1358 – civil matter, Carriage Ln.  
1436 – follow up, Rawsonville Rd./Willis Rd.  
1629 – suspicious incident, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.  
2121 – reckless driving, Sumpter Rd./Willis Rd.  
2154 – suspicious person, Oakville Waltz Rd. / Sumpter Rd.  
2336 – noise complaint, 21000 bl. Martinsville Rd.

**Tuesday, Dec. 24:**  
0040 – assist other agency, Sumpter Rd./Willow  
0217 – assault, Edgewood Dr.  
0220 – suspicious person, Edgewood Dr.  
0736 – suspicious incident, Knollwood Dr.  
0913 – citizen assist, 24000 bl. Carleton West Rd.  
1058 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
1241 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
2224 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

**Wednesday, Dec. 25:**  
0242 – civil matter, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
0942 – death investigation, 25000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1609 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Clark Rd.  
1645 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln. E  
1919 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Kozma Rd.  
2023 – noise complaint, Paris Dr./Sumpter Rd.  
2323 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.

**Thursday, Dec. 26:**  
1006 – patrol check, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1019 – fire dept. assist, California St.  
1025 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
1350 – suspicious incident, Bemis/Rawsonville  
1355 – animal complaint, Sumpter/Arkona  
1356 – welfare check, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1558 – subpoena service, 9900 bl. E. Bemis Rd.  
1603 – family trouble, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1628 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1633 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1929 – animal complaint, 7800 bl. Oakville Waltz

**Friday, Dec. 27:**  
0838 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
1036 – suspicious incident, Arkona/Martinsville  
1144 – civil matter, 42000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1144 – subpoena service, Knollwood Dr.

1454 – 911 hang up, 51000 bl. Arkona Rd.  
1704 – welfare check, 40000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1906 – subpoena service, Knollwood Dr.

**Saturday, Dec. 28:**  
0122 – suspicious person, 29000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
0224 – assault, 29075 Elwell Rd.  
1114 – alarm, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1251 – fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1343 – welfare check, 27000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
1444 – suspicious person, 27000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1740 – follow up, 29000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1949 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.  
2054 – reckless driving, Rawsonville/Martz

Also on this week’s log are 17 traffic stops, 15 patrol checks, and 11 miscellaneous details.

**Sunday, Dec. 29:**  
0243 – warrant arrest, 29000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
0834 – fire dept. assist, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1116 – citizen assist, Willow Rd./Carleton West  
1245 – reckless driver, Oakville Waltz/Sumpter  
1753 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1821 – 911 hang up, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.  
2030 – personal injury accident, Sumpter/Bemis

**Monday, Dec. 30:**  
0237 – alarm, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.  
0928 – civil matter, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1026 – alarm, 4900 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.  
1329 – assault, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1355 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln. N  
1604 – welfare check, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1939 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.

**Tuesday, Dec. 31:**  
1146 – assault, Edgewood Dr.  
1301 – shots fired, 39000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1417 – property damage accident, Karr Rd./Judd  
1555 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
1826 – citizen assist, Willow/Martinsville  
1830 – reckless driver, Rawsonville/Willis  
2023 – 911 hang up, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.  
2037 – alarm, 21000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
2136 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Arkona Rd.  
2211 – welfare check, Bemis/Martinsville  
2345 – fire dept. assist, Edgewood Dr.

**Wednesday, Jan. 1:**  
0244 – welfare check, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.  
0249 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln. N  
0549 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2211 – ordinance complaint, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.

**Thursday, Jan. 2:**  
0504 – fire dept. assist, W. Arizona St.,  
1239 – civil matter, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.  
1401 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1640 – civil matter, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.  
1835 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1917 – reckless driver, Sumpter Rd./Judd Rd.

**Friday, Jan. 3:**  
0420 – fire dept. assist, Nevada St.  
0433 – animal complaint, 9300 bl. Rawsonville  
0521 – death investigation, 29000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1013 – ORV complaint, Elwell Rd./Arkona Rd.  
1135 – welfare check, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1517 – 911 hang up, Rustic Ln. W.  
1828 – civil matter, 11000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1830 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1903 – welfare check, 11000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
2058 – alarm, 50000 bl. Judd Rd.  
2154 – assist other agency, Edgewood Dr.

**Saturday, Jan. 4:**  
0231 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Paris  
0918 – larceny, 21000 bl. Karr Rd.  
0937 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.  
1332 – civil matter, Edgewood Dr.  
1533 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2344 – warrant arrest, Stonecrest Dr.  
2346 – fire dept. assist, Elwell/Oakville Waltz

Also, on this week’s log are 28 traffic stops, 10 patrol checks, and six miscellaneous details.

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**Sunday, Jan. 5:**  
0133 – family trouble, Washington St.  
0334 – fire dept. assist, 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
1012 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1211 – BOL – be on the lookout, Willow/Karr  
1339 – alarm, 50000 bl. Wear Rd.  
2110 – welfare check, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.  
2124 – suspicious person, 10000 bl. Rawsonville  
2251 – reckless driving, Rawsonville/Martz  
2305 – fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.

**Monday, Jan. 6:**  
0043 – animal complaint, 48000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1230 – suspicious incident, Hampshire Dr.  
1448 – suspicious incident, 24000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

*(Continued on page 19)*



# WILD GAME DINNER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

734-697-7002

WAYNE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS DINING HALL

\$40 per person

Doors open at 6:00pm, Appetizers at 6:30 pm  
with Dinner at 7:00 pm

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued on page 18)

1510 – suspicious incident, 24000 bl. Clark Rd.  
1630 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1812 – follow up, 29000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1932 – warrant arrest pick up, Rawsonville/Willis  
2121 – warrant arrest pick up, Sumpter/Kozma

### Tuesday, Jan. 7:

0015 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
0331 – animal complaint, Rawsonville/Rustic Ln.  
0752 – animal complaint, 10000 bl. Rawsonville  
0830 – animal complaint, Country Club Blvd.  
1339 – fire dept. assist, 40000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1546 – assist other agency, Oakville Waltz/Clark  
1710 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Elwell Rd.

### Wednesday, Jan. 8:

0447 – fire dept. assist, Creekside Dr.  
0800 – fire dept. assist, Redwood Dr.  
0821 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Willis Rd.  
0928 – fire dept. assist, Country Club Blvd.  
1128 – fraud investigation, 8100 bl. Rawsonville  
1145 – civil matter, Edgewood Dr.  
1333 – welfare check, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1833 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Lohr Rd.  
2024 – fire dept. assist, Mulberry Dr.  
2139 – juvenile complaint, Country Club Blvd.

### Thursday, Jan. 9:

0958 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1009 – assist other agency, Sumpter/Judd  
1219 – civil matter, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1613 – 911 hang up, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.  
2001 – family trouble, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.  
2108 – noise complaint, New Mexico St.

### Friday, Jan. 10:

0013 – suspicious person, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.  
0026 – alarm, 23000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
0127 – warrant arrest pick up, Sumpter/Kozma  
1421 – suspicious incident, Mulberry Rd.  
1843 – citizen assist, 27000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
2120 – citizen assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.

### Saturday, Jan. 11:

0458 – welfare check, Greenmeadow Dr.  
0629 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.  
0725 – fire dept. assist, Creekside Dr.  
1114 – animal complaint, First St.  
1151 – civil matter, Rustic Ln.  
2020 – 911 hang up, 43000 bl. Willis Rd.  
2145 – suspicious incident, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.

Also on this week's log are 26 patrol checks, nine miscellaneous details, and 27 traffic stops.

## Court Watching:

## Zackary Middleton bound over on OWIs, police officer assaults

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

Zackary Lynn Middleton, 25, of Sumpter Township waived his preliminary exam on Jan. 8 in 34<sup>th</sup> District Court and was bound over by Chief Judge Brian A. Oakley to the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice for a Jan. 22 arraignment on the information.

Middleton is charged with two counts of operating while intoxicated – 3<sup>rd</sup> time, one count of assaulting a police officer causing injury, and one count of assaulting, resisting, obstructing a police officer on Nov. 1 in Sumpter Township.

The case was delayed for various reasons including adjournment for ongoing plea negotiations and a conflict in dates for the defendant's court appointed attorney Patrick Nyenhuis.

He had been released from custody with an alcohol tether after posting bond of \$5,000/10%. Officer in charge of the case is Sumpter Sgt. Brian Steffani.

### Wyatt Lee Prater

Wyatt Lee Prater, 43, of Van Buren Township, waived his preliminary exam before Magistrate Lisa Martin and was bound over for a Jan. 22 arraignment on the information at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice.

Prater is charged with possession of less than 25 grams of narcotics or cocaine on Oct. 12 in Van Buren Township. He is free on \$5,000 personal recognizance bond. His court-appointed defense attorney is Nancy Ann Richards.

## Upcoming Meetings

- Tuesday, Jan. 21 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees workshop session at 4 p.m., with regular meeting at 6 p.m.

- Wednesday, Jan. 22 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

- Saturday, Jan. 25 – Belleville City Council interviews candidates for new city manager, 10 a.m. Open to the public.

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**734-697-2888**

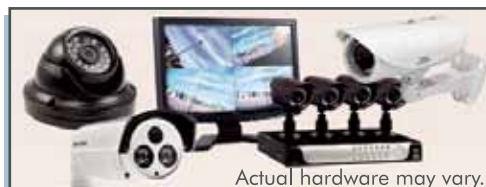
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**13731 ELWELL, VAN BUREN TWP**  
**LARGER 5 BEDROOM**, 3 Bath Ranch with Large Living Room, Fireplace, Solarium Room, Deck, Basement, Newer Roof, Newer 90+ Furnace and Central Air, Separate Living Area with Bedroom, Bath and Second Kitchen. \$239,900

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**48024 BEMIS, VAN BUREN TWP**  
**ORIGINAL OWNER** 2,500 Square Foot Brick Colonial Offering 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Hardwood Floors Everywhere, Large Family Room with Fireplace, Basement, Huge Fenced Yard, 2 1/2 Car Garage. \$242,900

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**YOUR OWN PRIVATE WORLD** A Total of 5,263 Square Feet! 4 Bedroom 3 Full and 2 Half Baths, INTERIOR POOL, High End Premium Built Brick 3 Level Home. 100+ Feet of Lake Frontage, Double Dock & SAND BEACH. \$898,900

### 2 POLE BARN



**9277 RAWSONVILLE, SUMPTER TWP**  
**ENJOY COUNTRY LIVING** With 3 Bedrooms, First Floor Master with Master Bath, 2 1/2 Baths, Fireplace, Deck, 3 Acres, 2 1/2 Car attached Garage, Two Pole Barns This home was enjoyed by a car collector. \$230,000

### PRIME LOCATION



**41405 TYLER, VAN BUREN**  
**PRIME LOCATION**, Corner of Haggerty and Tyler. Opportunity Awaits this 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath Home. Large Lot with Larger 2 1/2 Car Detached Garage. This Property could be the key to a larger development parcel. Offered at \$135,000

### HUGE DUPLEX



**10106 WILLIS, WILLIS**  
**THIS HOME HAS MORE SPACE THAN SPACE!** HUGE HOME in the Village of Willis. Residential Zoning and now used as a Duplex. 2 Kitchens, 2 Baths, 2 Living Rooms, and 5 Bedrooms. Character and Charm plus Basement, 2 Car Garage and Large Lot. \$172,900

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**23560 SUMPTER, SUMPTER TWP**  
**RESIDENTIAL OR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY.** Possible Residential, Day Care, Group Home, Apartments or Your Ideas Large front covered porch. Large Covered Patio & fireplace 1 Large Kitchen, 2 Apartment Kitchens, 5 Bathrooms. 1 Car Garage. A Best Buy \$225,000

### 1 ACRE + POLE BARN



**17164 RENTON, VAN BUREN TWP**  
**LARGE COUNTRY HOME** on more than an Acre. Just minutes from expressways and shopping. Open Floor Plan with Huge Rooms, Wood Flooring, Fireplace, Rear Patio, Fire Pit with 2 1/2 Car Detached Garage PLUS Pole Barn, and the Best of Nature. \$199,900.

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**8908 IRONWOOD VAN BUREN TWP**  
**CAREFREE LIVING** in this Beautiful 2 bedroom 2.5 bath condo Featuring Gas Fireplace, Dining area with Patio Walkout. Finished Basement with Full Bath. Huge Premium Bath and Brick Paver Patio. This Home is Extra Clean and Shows Like New \$155,000

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25817 SUMPTER 80X529 .97 AC \$20,000  
SHERWOOD 37.55 AC BY WEARS \$189,900

19 ACRES BREST ROAD TAYLOR \$550,000  
WILLIS SUMPTER 1.14 ACRES \$60,000  
28710 SUMPTER ROAD \$10,000  
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HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$70,000

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HURON TWP VAC CLARK .74 ACRES \$65,000  
HURON TWP VAC CLARK 1.12 ACRES \$75,000  
HURON TWP VAC OTTER 2.94 ACRES \$80,000  
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